Meeting of tobacco growers association

1678. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has called a meeting of tobacco growers associations in 2007-08 to discuss their problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what were the demands;

(d) whether it is a fact that easy entry of imported cigarettes has harmed Andhra Pradesh tobacco farmers; and

(e) the steps proposed to plug the loopholes and assist Indian tobacco farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir. The import of cigarettes has gone up from Rs. 13.32 crore in 2002-03 to Rs. 50.26 crore in 2006-07. During the period the production of the Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco in Andhra Pradesh has gone up from 127.67 million kgs to 171.95 million kgs. and the average price realizations of growers of the State from Rs. 34.83 per kg to Rs. 47.47 per kg. Liberalized import of cigarettes. therefore. does not seem to has adversely affected the interests of tobacco growers.

(e) Does not arise.

Setting up of spice parks

1679. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Spice Parks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what fiscal and financial incentives shall be given to these parks;

(c) whether the locations of such parks have been identified;

(d) if so, who identifies the location and what is the size of such parks;

(e) who will be responsible for developing the infrastructure in such parks; and

(f) what will be the role and obligations of the respective State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) In the Eleventh Plan, the Spices Board has proposed setting up of six Spices Parks in the major spice growing centres of the country for processing and value addition of various spices at a total financial outlay of Rs.62.32 crore. The units to be set up in the parks by the spices exporters are proposed to be provided with common cleaning, processing, grading, packing and warehousing facilities against a fixed user fee. The exporters in these Parks can avail the benefits of the export development/promotion schemes like assistance (33% of the cost of the plant and machinery) for setting up of hi-tech units for high-end value addition and export, financial support for sending business samples abroad, printing of brochures, participation in international fairs etc.

c) The Locations identified for spices parks are:–

(i) Chhindwara district in Madhya Pradesh for dehydrated garlic and green chilli extraction.

(ii) Idukki district in Kerala for cardamom and pepper.

(iii) Erode in Tamil Nadu for turmeric

(iv) Guntur in Andhra Pradesh for chillies

(v) Barabanki district/Rampur district in Uttar Pradesh for mint and mint products, and

(vi) Kota/Jalore districts of Rajasthan for coriander, cumin, fennel and fenugreek.

(d) The Spices Board has identified these locations based on production concentration of the identified crops, lack of infrastructure for cleaning, grading, packing and godown facilities and scope for investment by private entrepreneurs for value addition of spices for export and domestic market. The average size of the park may be around 100-200 acres depending on the land available/provided by the concerned State Government for the purpose.

(e) and (f) The concerned State Governments are required to provide land to the Spices Board for establishing the spices park. The Spices Board will be the nodal agency for the implementation of this scheme. The concerned 'State Government or its nominated agency will be associated in the process.

MPEDA links with Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

1680. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) developed links with Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC);

(b) the nature of MPEDA's links and institutional arrangement with IOTC;

(c) in what way does MPEDA have the technical expertise to implement the IOTC's agenda in India;

(d) whether it is a fact that MPEDA organized and visited foreign countries to tie-up its interest with IOTC; and